

C<sup>1</sup>  
The signal lead electrodes 42 and the ground lead electrode 44 are connected to respective contact electrodes 50 and 52' formed on the bottom face 26 of the body 24. The contact electrode 52 extends beyond the rear ends of the ink channels 18. All the contact electrodes 50 and 52 are electrically connected to a control circuit (not shown) via electrical leads formed on a connecting piece 54. The connecting piece 54 is formed by a flexible foil which is sandwiched between the bottom face 26 of the body 24 and the receiving member 22 below the inactive part 36.

IN THE CLAIMS

**Please amend the claims to read as follows:**

C<sup>2</sup>  
1. (Twice Amended) A piezoelectric actuator for an ink jet printhead, comprising:

- a block body of piezoelectric material having a bottom face through which the mechanical energy of the actuator is transferred to a receiving member, said body having an active portion adjacent to the bottom face as well as an inactive portion disposed between said active portion and a top face of said block body;

- a layered structure of alternating signal electrodes and common electrodes arranged in the active portion, substantially parallel with the bottom face and separated by layers of the piezoelectric material, wherein each signal